

# NetworkNEWS Flash!

Illinois Department on Aging

Governor Rod R. Blagojevich  
Director Charles D. Johnson

February 20, 2004

## Scam Alert!

Two scams related to pharmaceutical assistance in Illinois have been reported to our office.

### **Circuit Breaker/Pharmaceutical Assistance**

Several Circuit Breaker/Pharmaceutical Assistance Program participants have received calls from a woman who identifies herself as a state employee. Using the excuse that she is calling to verify information, she attempts to obtain personal information, such as bank account numbers. This caller is reportedly a smooth operator, adept at initiating a friendly and reassuring conversation with the intended victim.

### **Discount Drugs**

Other potential telephone scams offer either 1. free medicine for a \$195 annual application fee, or 2. a 40 to 50 percent discount drug card for a \$299 fee. One of the calls appears to be originating from Quebec, Canada (a 514 area code).

**Please forward any reports from clients who have experienced similar calls to the Senior HelpLine.** The Illinois Department on Aging is working with the Offices of the Governor and the Attorney General to investigate the problem.

Senior HelpLine: 1-800-252-8966 (Voice and TTY)

You may also call Barbara Manning of the Senior HelpLine to discuss any concerns or questions. She may be reached at 1-217-524-6910 or [barbara.manning@aging.state.il.us](mailto:barbara.manning@aging.state.il.us).